
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 361

AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILY IMPACT STATEMENTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Superior Court to allow a defendant who is the parent or guardian of a minor child to submit a family impact statement, which the court must consider before sentencing. The defendant must have physical custody of the minor child (under age 18) and be convicted of a criminal offense for which a prison sentence may be imposed.

The bill allows such a defendant to use the family impact statement to address the impact imprisonment would have on the child and other family members. This may include the:

1. impact on the financial needs of the child and other family members,
2. relationship between the defendant and the child,
3. availability of community and family support for the child,
4. defendant's employment history and available employment opportunities,
5. defendant's statement regarding programs available to rehabilitate the defendant if he or she is not sentenced to imprisonment,
6. seriousness of the offense, and
7. defendant's criminal history.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 22 Nay 10 (03/24/2014)